

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20503

National Intelligence Officers

30 August 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Robert R. Bowie
Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence

SUBJECT : Revision That You Requested of The Soviet Leadership
Succession Paper

1. Action Requested: That you indicate whether the attached revised Key Judgments of the State-CIA-NSA paper on the Soviet leadership succession adequately responds to your expressed concerns about what the paper should do for key policy readers.

2. Background: When we discussed the subject of the Soviet leadership succession, and this paper, with you recently, you were concerned that the paper more fully:

- describe the general process of succession;
- consider a range of alternative likely and possible succession scenarios
- spell out the policy implications for the US of a Soviet succession process in general, and of various alternative scenarios...

We have revised the paper accordingly, and attach its Table of Contents and Key Judgments.

3. Staff Position: Representatives of State/INR, CIA and NSA have approved the revisions.

4. Recommendation: That you approve the Key Judgments and our issuing the paper.

Robert R. Bowie

APPROVED: _____
Director of Central Intelligence

DISAPPROVED: _____
Director of Central Intelligence

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THE NEXT TWO YEARS: BREZHNEV, OR A SUCCESSION?

IMPLICATIONS FOR US POLICY

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